



APPALACHIAN TRAIL
CONSERVANCY®

A2012-29

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November 16, 2011

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Office of the Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

In the Matter of:

Glencloff Post Office, NH 03238

Docket No.: 2012-29

David N. Startzell, Executive Director, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Petitioner

*I hereby request a waiver to submit my participant statement on paper.

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. The petitioner is appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Glencloff Post Office. The Final Determination was posted on October 5, 2011.
2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. §404(d)(5), the Petitioner requests the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.
3. Petitioner: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination Should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

I am writing in behalf of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to represent the interests of Appalachian Trail hikers.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is a private, nonprofit educational and conservation organization established in 1925 to coordinate efforts by both public land-managing agencies and private citizens and organizations to establish, protect, and maintain the Appalachian Trail—a 2,181-mile footpath extending along the ridges and valleys of the Appalachian Mountain range through 14 states from Maine to Georgia and encompassing more than 250,000 acres. ATC is a membership organization with approximately 39,000 individual members and also is a federation of 31 affiliated hiking and outing clubs—each of which maintains an assigned segment of the Appalachian Trail—with a combined membership of more than 100,000 individuals. In 1968, the Appalachian Trail gained Federal recognition as the nation's first national scenic trail. Each year an estimated two million visitors experience some portion of the Trail.

Our organization believes the decision to close the Glencliff Post Office is capricious, given that recent analysis, as we understand it, overlooked the very significant factual information that 378 packages addressed to general delivery were received by the Glencliff Post Office and this seasonal influx of packages was not appropriately factored into the decision to close.

If the Glencliff Post Office were to close, the nearest post office at that point along the A.T. would be Warren, 4 miles away. For a hiker walking at two miles an hour, that would require a four-hour walk along the road (for an 8-mile round trip), putting hikers at an unacceptable risk to vehicular traffic. Glencliff is not large enough to support either a taxi or public transportation system.

The round-trip distance and time required to cover it is significant enough that almost all hikers would instead opt to utilize the next post office within reasonable walking distance along the A.T. To the north, the next post office within walking distance of the Appalachian Trail would be Gorham, NH, 100 trail miles away (Mt. Washington delivery is considered unreliable and hikers are advised not to send packages there). To the south, the closest post office on the A.T. would be Hanover, NH, 43 away.

The Post Office in Glencliff is especially vital because there is no place to purchase groceries and other supplies along the entire length of the A.T. between Hanover, NH and Gorham, NH—a distance of 143 miles. The general delivery service available at Glencliff allows hikers to send not only food to themselves, but the additional cold-weather gear needed in a traverse of the White Mountains.

The Glencliff, NH post office is one of the most important post offices along the entire Appalachian Trail. It serves as a lifeline for hikers in a remote area and provides a critical service. It is one of only 19 post office within ½ mile of the Appalachian Trail. Of these, it is probably the most important. It is one of only two of those that do not have groceries available for hikers to purchase if the post office were to close. The other (Caratunk, ME) is closer to other post offices along the Trail.

Our organization requests that the Postal Service's Final Determination be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David N. Startzell
Executive Director